

# AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

## *Listing of Claims:*

1. (Currently Amended) A method for depositing an inorganic material from a reactive solution onto a substrate, comprising:  
  
chemically treating said substrate to activate growth of said inorganic material;  
  
immersing said substrate into said reactive solution wherein the reactive solution is in a first container;  
  
using a monitoring process to determine when said reactive solution becomes depleted to form a depleted composition; and  
  
transferring the depleted composition from the first container to a second container,  
  
wherein the second container is in fluid communication with the first container;  
  
regenerating the depleted composition to form a regenerated reactive solution; and  
  
~~regenerating said~~transferring the regenerated reactive solution to the first container to allow for continuous growth of said inorganic material onto said substrate, wherein the monitoring process comprises pH measurements, spectrographic analysis or both.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the inorganic material is a silicon oxide.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the substrate is a silicon wafer.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the substrate is a component of a semiconductor chip.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the substrate is a component of a nano-based chip.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the inorganic material forms an optical waveguide.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the reactive solution is comprised of  $\text{H}_2\text{SiF}_6$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the reactive solution is regenerated by the addition of silicon.
- 9-15. (Canceled)
16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the chemically treating the substrate further comprises immersing the substrate in a solution of ammonium hydroxide, hydrogen peroxide, and water.
17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the ammonium hydroxide, hydrogen peroxide, and water is in a ratio of about 1:1:6.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the chemically treating the substrate further comprises immersing the substrate in a solution of hydrochloric acid, hydrogen peroxide, and water.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the hydrochloric acid, hydrogen peroxide, and water is in a ratio of about 1:1:5.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the immersions of the chemical treatment are carried out at a temperature of about 60 to 80 °C for about 5 minutes.
21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the regenerating the reactive solution further comprises reducing the amount of hydrofluoric acid in the reactive solution.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the hydrofluoric acid is reduced via contact with silicon oxide.
23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the hydrofluoric acid is converted to  $\text{H}_2\text{SiF}_6$ .
24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 further comprising monitoring depletion of the silica.
25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 further comprising replenishing the silica upon depletion.
26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the immersing the substrate into the reactive bath is carried out at room temperature.
27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the growth of the inorganic material on the substrate is homogeneous.
28. (Canceled)